

October 29, 1936.

3

Insect Control
Annual Report

Chief, Forest Service,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Reports covering insect conditions on the forests of this region have been received from the Supervisors. A brief summary of these reports, giving a picture of the conditions in the region, follows:

Due to the exceptionally dry climatic conditions for the past few years, mature trees have been greatly weakened, especially on the high, rough, dry ridges in both the pine and fir types. A large percentage of the virgin timber on these ridges and steep slopes in both types is mature and over-mature and heavily infected with witches broom and mistletoe, which also tend to weaken the trees and make them very susceptible to attacks by forest insects. Severe wind storms have caused considerable blowdown timber throughout the forests. The insect population has increased on certain forests of the region to some extent, but in no place to what would be considered an epidemic stage.

Normal insect conditions are reported on the following forests: Apache, Cibola, Coconino, Coronado, Gila, Sitgreaves and Tonto.

Carson Forest

The Carson reports some damage by *Dendroctonus* beetles in both pine and fir types on the Taos Division and on adjoining private lands. These attacks are in small groups well scattered over the timbered area and control measures may become necessary.

The spruce budworm occurs in varying degrees of intensity throughout the fir type on the Carson. The heaviest infestation occurs in the upper San Antone and along the Vallecitos drainage of the Amarilla Division.

The tent caterpillar infestation covered large areas again this year on the Amarilla Division and was particularly heavy in the vicinity of Canjilon and San Antone Mountains. The aspen trees in these areas were defoliated during May. Repeated defoliation has resulted in the death of some individual trees and a thinning out of the crowns in the aspen stands. As a result of the thinning out of the crowns a stand of sprout reproduction is coming in underneath. A study of the tent caterpillar is being made under a State WPA project. They have found several parasites which work on the tent caterpillar, but we do not have a report on the use of these parasites for control work.

Crook Forest

The Crook Forest reports that the work done on the Pinal Mountains to control the *Ips* infestation during late 1935, was effective; that only one spot of three-quarters of an acre showed up in 1936. This area was treated with an ERA crew during the late summer of 1936. Aside from this, the forest insect conditions on the forest are normal.

Prescott Forest

The Prescott reports that the insect control work for control of Ips and Dendroctonus done in the Horsethief Basin area last December, 1935, to March, 1936, was effective, as very little new infestation has shown up during this season. There has been some new infestation in the vicinity of Union Mountain and Camp Wood country. It is planned to use a crew of 30 ERA men for three months on insect control in the most heavily infested areas and rework the Horsethief Basin to clean up this area.

Kaibab Forest

The Kaibab Forest was visited by L. G. Baumhofer, Associate Entomologist from the Forest Insect Laboratory at Fort Collins, Colorado. A copy of his report covering insect conditions as he found them on the Kaibab North of the Canyon and on the Grand Canyon Division is included.

Lincoln Forest

The Lincoln Forest reports bark beetle damage on the Sacramento Division of the Forest. Much of the damage is in the vicinity of sawmill operations on private lands. This damage is caused principally by secondary Dendroctonus and Ips. There are individuals and scattered small groups of dead trees over considerable areas in the pine type on the east slope of the Sacramento Mountains where the timber has been weakened by several years of drought and is very susceptible to insect attacks.

Santa Fe Forest

The Santa Fe Forest reports bark beetle attacks on the Pecos Division of the forest. A preliminary examination was made in the Pecos River drainage and specimens of the beetles apparently doing the damage were collected and forwarded for identification. They were Dendroctonus pseudotsugae and D. engelmanni. These beetles were found working in the Douglas fir and Colorado blue spruce. The beetles are scattered over most of the fir and spruce types in the Pecos drainage in groups of trees of one to three with active beetles in them.

The same condition was found in the spruce stands in Gallinas Canyon west of Las Vegas, New Mexico. Very little damage in the Douglas fir was found in this vicinity. A crew of 10 ERA men are starting control work in the spruce stands along the bottom of Gallinas Canyon on and adjacent to recreational areas.

The tent caterpillar infestation which has been present on the forest for several years appears to be on the decline.

Conditions on the Carson, Santa Fe and Lincoln Forests in regard to Dendroctonus attacks may become serious, are being carefully watched and additional control work will be scheduled if conditions warrant.

Very truly yours,

FRANK C.W. POOLER, Regional Forester

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By: George W. Kimball, Acting.